



RECEIVED

SEP 2 7 08 AM '03

CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 29, 2003****CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000**Contact: Steve Uyeno**  
**Ph: (808) 375-3884****HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL URGES CONTRACT TALKS TO RESUME**

Members of the Honolulu City Council are urging Oahu Transit Services (OTS) and the Teamsters to return to contract negotiations as soon as possible. "Our concern is for the bus riders first and foremost," said Councilmember Rod Tam.

Councilmembers received numerous phone calls, emails and letters asking for help from constituents. "The current situation has limited the mobility of senior and disabled riders," said Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz. "Our focus on is the people who need this service."

"Many of TheBus riders who are seniors, disabled and are on fixed incomes have no other way to get to the Doctor or get to work," said Councilmember Mike Gabbard.

By law, the Honolulu City Council is not allowed to involve themselves or interfere with contract negotiations between public unions and city employees. "The Honolulu City Council is also prevented in interfering with OTS and union negotiations," said Councilmember Romy Cachola.

Once negotiations have been finalized, the Honolulu City Council is tasked with reviewing the Administrations budget proposal, which should include the settlements, during budget proceedings.

"We are hopeful that the parties will return to the bargaining table soon and resolve their differences," said Councilmember Ann Kobayashi. "When the parties do reach an agreement, we want to assure the parties that, historically, the Council has always honored the City's contractual obligations."

"Bill 53 should provide a sufficient amount of funding to restore service cuts," said Councilmember Nestor Garcia. "This is still a work in progress."

Councilmember Charles Djou agreed, however added, "Additional taxes at this point is not an option."

####